

TELCON

President/Kissinger

9:12 a.m. 6/17/70

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

P: I was going to say two things. One on the NYTimes. Have you worked that out? I want to say a few more things.

K: I am seeing them at the end of the day. I checked with Zeigler and he said he would handle it.

P: One thing you have to watch for. I do not think that Frankel is interested in the process and he is using that as bait ~~and that you~~ because he knows that you want to get that out. Rick Smith has been reporting from VN and they are the most distorted stories of any. Smith is very clever. I met him in Israel in '67 and he will suck up to you and make it appear he is for you. I just want you to know what they are after. I think they are after something else. I don't mind you seeing him. Just be sure we give them what we want. He has been out there and his reporting has been very bad. You have not one but two enemies and Smith is a very clever little boy. He is Red (?) Smith's son. Just remember that he is out to get you.

K: Shall I drop the whole thing?

P: Try it to see and have a little fun. If the story comes out we can try again. My only thought is to put you on guard. A couple of others we have tried to work with. This is Frankel's chance but don't tell him. Watch Smith. He is pro-Viet Cong. He is the worst of the major reporters. I want to see what you can do with it.

K: The NYTimes and Post were getting stories only from people willing to cut us up. Whether they will print after they have talked I don't know.

P: Give them a shot.

K: He said they have concluded that this whole thing was more carefully thought through than they thought. They want a definitive story. We have to protect Maxie so it won't be so involved. I don't know if I can handle him.

P: Sure you can but I wanted you to know where we stand. He is nice and pleasant unlike Loory but as mean as a snake.

K: I won't do it if you prefer.

P: No, let's give them a test run. Then if it goes, fine. Then if they give a hammer say Max, you have done this and this is it.

K: I agree.

P: Some are old friends but you are not coming in again. I would be quite

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P: (cont.) cool about the fact that the Times has done a bad job of reporting. Be tough.

K: I haven't seen anyone from the Times.

P: No, I know, but just let him know. On the Cambodian report. Is there anything new on that?

K: They are continuing ^{the} ~~to~~ hit and run raids. I talked to Packard and Moorer last night.

P: Have our people gotten off on any of these things on arms, intelligence, getting people in there?

K: Two CIA people went in yesterday or will be within 24 hours.

P: Some Cambodian Brig. General says there is 5 divisions ready to pounce on Phenom Penh. I doubt if they are but that kind of talk is bad. It presents psychological problems. What is that General doing that we sent out.

K: We are communicating by backchannel and he just got there. I will check.

P: I wish you would. They sit there in Phenom Penh and they are not g really getting out. That General is supposed to get in there and see what's needed this week. Call each of those people that were in the meeting. Call them this morning. I read the report last night and it was a blank page. I want a report at 5:00. Intelligence, arms in and what you have done to get VN in. I want on temporary duty Abrams and Helms to get people in there.

K: It's being done.

P: When?

K: This week.

P: I want it done today. Or I will have to do something more drastic. I ordered it three weeks ago and they haven't done anything. I want Packard and Moorer and what are they doing? Keep on them. Call them this morning. I know you have been riding hell on them and let them know I want a report every hour. Get Vogt to follow up.

K: When things are not carried out, someone has to be fired.

P: Find someone and I'll be glad to. I read there was another town re-taken but the road is still closed. It's the press.

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K: Most of the oil comes from the Mekong and not up that road.

P: Get [] in this week to stabilize it. It can be won this week. STAT

K: I am convinced of it.

P: They don't have the staying power. It's the same here. They are rambling around. It's like you said, Napoleon. Hit them here, here, and here. They took this town and didn't get anybody. They weren't there to get people but to scare people.

K: If they were ~~strong~~ strong they would have brought Sihanouk back.

P: If that's true, it's a psychological strategy. We need one. More Vietnamese, flotilla up the Mekong, fly in weapons. It's a war of nerves now. What about this Ambassador. Is Whitehouse best?

K: He would be best but he has [] background. He is deeply worried. STAT He is afraid of the hell on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The best seems Swank who is in the Embassy in Moscow.

P: How about Cargo?

K: He is good. But to loose Richardson and Cargo over there --

P: I consider Cargo ~~an~~ a friend and to be loyal. I really want Cargo. I want someone I know. He is decent and a patriot. He is an Ayub Khan man.

K: We will not have anyone to work with on that (over there?). I will yield on that, of course.

P: Maybe we can get that guy from Jamaica up. He will tear hell up. I know you are working hard and I am tired of no one else doing anything. I want a report at 5:00 today of what they have done. I consider it of the highest urgency and you cannot see me without it. Tell them.

K: Tasca is in town today. We have to get him out of town or he will go before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

P: I will see him today. 2:30, before the NSC. There's nothing else today is there?

K: No.

P: I agree that there are things that can role (?) our way but it has a psychological effect. People will say that if Cambodia is lost it's what the

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P: (cont.) whole thing was about. Don't let Frankel write a ~~story~~ ^{story} -- Cambodian neutrality is important and we will do what we can to support it with other Asian nations. Say that. Without the sanctuary business (?) Cambodia would be worse off. In fact, now Cambodia is much stronger. They had already taken three provincial capitals and _____ roads. They were doing much more ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

P: Have Frankel write that story and not the process story.